

The Mirror

VOL. 13

NO. 2

St. Michael's Commercial High School, Brooklyn, N.Y.

JANUARY 1960

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY
YOUNG ADULT DIVISION



SENIOR BAND TO RECEIVE NEW UNIFORMS

For their successful accomplishments the senior band members are being rewarded with new uniforms, a project which is being given splendid cooperation from the Mother's Auxiliary. Last year's fine performances of music, parading and twirling have already prompted letters requesting participation in the St. Patrick's as well as Memorial Day Parades. Such comments as, "We wouldn't desire another group" has enkindled the zest and enthusiasm of the members.

say:

Sister Cecilia Claire O.P., director of the band, has this to say: "St. Michael's Senior Band members are to be publicly commended for their excellent spirit of attendance, punctuality and enthusiasm at their bi-weekly practice lessons. Roll calls are wholly unnecessary; absenteeism does not prevail."

The students were treated to a band recital at the Christmas Assembly. An enthusiastic response from the audience proved that the senior band is preparing for future triumphs.

ST. FRANCIS, ST. MICHAEL'S COMBINE TALENTS

"The prettiest and nicest girls", was the comment of Mr. B. Rydzeski, stage director for the Saint Francis Preparatory Glee Club, at an interview given him after the conclusion of the Christmas Concert.

The concert included Gilbert and Sullivan's "Trial By Jury", several selections by the Brass Choir, a collection of Christmas numbers sung by the Combined Chorus and two renditions by the String Ensemble.

The program included: Bach's "In Dulci Julilo; Schubert's "Ave Maria"; A. Simeones' "Twas the Night Before Christmas"; Grubers' "Silent Night"; "Tannebaum"; and Ringwald Waring's "The Song of Christmas."

The endless hours of hard work and tireless efforts of Sister Mary Jogues and Mrs. Marie MacDonald made the concert a tremendous success. The acting and singing talents of Margaret Lesar, Margaret Farrell, Thomas Gerald, George Ansalone, Pierre Dumaine, Laurence Laskowske, Richard O'Keefe, Angelo Baldi, Patrick De Felice, Raymond Gorman, Cecil Lake and Michael Mertens enlivened "Trial By Jury". Long and happily remembered will be the 1959 Christmas Concert.

AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF NEW YORK ANNOUNCES CONTEST

This year, students in New York State have been assigned the subjects "Look All Ways Before Crossing" and "Play Away From Traffic". Those who submit a design on either of these themes may also enter a "School's Open—Drive Carefully" or a "Safe Driving Practice" poster.

Deadline is the end of February.

"CALLING ALL PARENTS"

The third annual Saint Valentine festivity held under the auspices of the Mothers' Auxiliary and Fathers' Club of Saint Michael's High School will take place Saturday, February 13 at 8:30 P.M. in the school hall. This year's chairman and chairlady are Mr. A. Battaglia and Mrs. C. Ambrosio. Since last year's event was such a tremendous success, plans are being made to make this dance an event to be enjoyed and long remembered. Soda, cheese, potato chips, tap beer are included in the \$2.00 per person admission price. Arrangements for a table for ten may be made on request.

All parents are urged to attend this affair. It is the social event of the year for the members and fathers of the students.

LAB LIFE IS FLOURISHING

The Lab has a brain! This is fact not fiction. Made of hard plastic the brain can be dissected into five sections. Sister Ethel warns that it is not up for rental during examination week!

Love has come to the aquarium with two kissing fish known as Gourmai. However, they are very shy and kiss behind the rocks. There are also forty new additions to the aquarium, and they are all Goupies. There is an air of tropical mystery as you gaze into the fish tank containing our Tropical fish.

Some of the girls from one of the General Science classes brought in pond water and hay, and did a little experimenting on their own. The water and hay produced Paramecia, which are small microscopic animals.

Several motors, batteries, and electrical apparatus were donated to the Lab. There is something in the cabinet that looks like a rocket. Sister Ethel, what's shooting???

CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY EVOKES HAPPY RESPONSE

Jingle bells and Christmas carols echoed through the halls on December 23rd as students, dressed in gay holiday colors, celebrated Christmas two days early. After cards, greetings and presents were exchanged in the classrooms, a general assembly was held in the auditorium.

The Senior Band, under the direction of Sister Cecilia Claire, gave a yuletide serenade. From the mezzanine came the lilting voices of the Glee Club, accompanied on the organ by Father Capistran O.F.M. Cap. Miss Czuba was instrumental in the staging of a tableau depicting the scene at Bethlehem.

Our Reverend Principal, Sister James Celeste, was presented with a unique Christmas tree bearing pine needles of dollar bills, after which she delivered her Christmas message to the student body. This was followed by an address from our own Father Godfrey O.F.M. Cap.

Parties in the cafeteria during lunch periods and early dismissal completed the most enjoyable day of the school year.

The Fathers' Club is offering a \$5 prize for the poster best illustrating the annual Fathers' and Daughters' Communion Breakfast. Contestants' work will be judged on originality, neatness and suitability of the subject. Deadline date is the twenty-sixth of February. For further information see Sister Mary Emmanuel, O.P.

Johanna M. Speiss
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Brooklyn 38, N.Y.

DO NOT CIRCULATE



"PROGRESS IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCT"

From flying machine, to monoplane, to airplane, to jet, to missile, to moon-bound rocket—this is progress. From the time of our forefathers, our nation has been buzzing with new ideas. Steady advances in the field of labor, innumerable improvements for home and office, and great studies in the worlds of science and medicine prove that America is always up front, setting the pace.

Generally speaking, Americans are future-minded people, eager to better the world in which they live. But in our midst exist those who fight progress and refuse to change with the times. Unwilling to adjust themselves to anything new, they linger behind the progressive masses of their countrymen. They form, as it were, a stagnant pool in the midst of an onrushing stream.

They may be compared with the Tories or Loyalists of the Revolutionary War. Rather than break the old bonds that united this country to Mother England, the Tories suffered those ties to practically strangle the life of America.

Saint Michael's, too, is marching on with the times. Progress demands that old practices be cast aside to make for more efficient ones. Old traditions, deep-rooted in our hearts, have now become obsolete. Rather than suffer Saint Michael's to drown in that pool of stagnancy, out-dated practices have been changed or abolished in keeping with a new era.

You and I are Young America. Like the Tories of old, we can trail behind the progressing nation. On the other hand, by experimenting with modern ideas, we can keep pace with our country. Shall we revolt against change and progress? Or shall we, for the betterment of our beloved Alma Mater be willing to relinquish ties with the past and adjust to modern and improved procedure?

What is your choice?

Anne Theresa Hill

WASHINGTON, LINCOLN; THEY HAVE LEFT THEIR FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME

Our country desperately strives for world peace. Instead of stressing economical development, she must concentrate on her defense as a security for her peace. Rocket launching and nuclear weapons will not provide an answer. Peace largely depends on able leaders. Abraham Lincoln and George Washington are the finest examples of good leadership. When they lived, our country was not advanced militarily in comparison to our present day progress. Lincoln and Washington realized the importance of military strength, but they did not place it as their highest ideal for peace. First and foremost was the economic welfare of their people.

Lincoln's greatness left an indelible impression on the people after his death. Typical of his peace loving character are his famous words, "With malice toward none; with charity for all." This simple and kind attitude was employed in all he did. To Lincoln the nation owes a debt for its preservation, and to him the Negro owes his sacred freedom.

George Washington was also born great. He was the first President of our country and probably the greatest there will ever be. We bow to him as the founder of American independence and as the guiding spirit of the Revolution.

We want to keep their contributions in our mind so we set aside February 12 for Abraham Lincoln, and February 22 for George Washington.

Josephine Cutrone

WILL YOU ANSWER HIS PLEA?

"I looked for one who would grieve together with Me, but there was none." How deeply sorrowful are these words of our forgotten Savior! How piercing is the pang of anguish which wounds His Sacred loving Heart as Lent approaches, and the modern world turns its back upon the Redemption, the greatest event in the history of mankind.

Was all Christ's suffering in vain? Will He Who so loved us receive no return of love or gratitude? Must He bear His Cross alone? Will, **You**, perhaps relieve the aching of His weary Heart by offering your love and sacrifices to lighten the weight of the Cross? It is little to ask for Him Who has given us life that we may know an eternity of joy!

A. T. H.

YOUNG CHRISTIAN STUDENTS ARE ACTIVE

Two important meetings were sponsored by members of the Young Christian Students. The first, a seminar meeting, took place at St. Michael's High School. The main topic discussed was "Attitude Toward Learning". Different aspects were brought in by Father Felican of St. Francis Preparatory. To stress his views, workshops were held on the following topics: "View on Education", "Formation of the Christian Student", and "Effect of Cultural and Social Environment upon the Student's Reports". The meeting terminated with questions from the floor which were directed toward Father Felican.

The second, an Administrator Meeting, took place in Cathedral High School. All schools in the New York Federation gave a report on what takes place at their particular school meetings. The meeting terminated with a brief spiritual talk by a Michaelite representative.

Besides the meetings, members of the Young Christian Students held a dance at Saint Ignatius Hall. Their friends attended making the crowd larger than ever. There was one band, "The Cardinals", and two singing groups.

A Michaelite, Carolyn Wittreich, and her partner, Joseph During, won a dance contest. This is the second time this year that a Michaelite has won. The previous winner, Denise Duffy, is now nicknamed "Dancing Duffy". The dance turned out to be a huge social success. Members are looking forward to a promising future.



FORENSIC LEAGUE STUDIES DEBATING

The Forensic League is attempting to master the art of debate. On December ninth, Miss Sinnott and the members watched and listened to the experienced and excellent debaters of Saint John's High School. The boys introduced them to, and explained about the exciting art of debating. The affirmative and negative teams proceeded to attack the Taft-Hartley Act and establish a stronghold of opinion.

Affirmative—"There are no exceptions in the Taft-Hartley Act. Even during Probation an exception was given to the Church allowing the use of wine."

Negative—"Exceptions warrant a **need**!

Whims and fancy notions are only large loop holes in a debate. The League must learn to pin point the pin points, to reason logically and to gain self-possession. The students have much to learn, but are enthusiastic enough to get something accomplished.

Introducing the Varsity:

Captain: Gloria Weigand

Co-Captain: Patricia Walsh

Secretary: Ethel Robertson

Treasurer: Kathleen Nestle

The members include: Barbara Bailey, Carol Bazerwski, Andrea Calapinto, Geraldine Crawford, Kathleen Daly, Ann Gisando, Ann Harrington, Elizabeth Langone, Carol Ann Lombardi, Ellen McCarthy, Patricia Sath and Joanne Schittig. You will find these students practicing each Monday and Friday in the gym.

These are our Cheerleaders:

Captain: Mary Ann Klein

Co-Captain: Barbara Smith

Members include: Marry Ellen Bittel, Catherine Courtney, Denise Duffy, Patricia Galpin, Carol Guaneri, Cheryl Kearney, Alice Kaiser, Arlene Leone, Joellen Leone, Alice Lenowicz, Jean Lepore, Margaret McKillop, Diane Quartuccio, Joanne Rogers, and Eleanor Santangelo. Each Monday and Thursday these students can be seen practicing on the mezzanine.

VARSITY BATTLES TO DEFEAT AND VICTORY

An action-packed game was played in St. Michael's Court; the Varsity vs. Fontbonne Hall. Although St. Michael's carried the lead most of the playing time, Fontbonne managed to tie the score in the last quarter. The game reached its climax when Fontbonne scored a basket shot at the very end bringing the score to 39-37, and defeat to the Michaelites.

A week later St. Michael's Varsity faced Our Lady of Wisdom on the same court. This was another suspense-filled two hours. The teams were well matched. When the smoke of battle cleared the score was 32-39 in favor of St. Michael's.

Miss Walsh, the Varsity's new coach, is a graduate of Bishop McDonnell High School. Now in her third year at Hunter College, she is majoring in physical education and plans to teach it in the future.

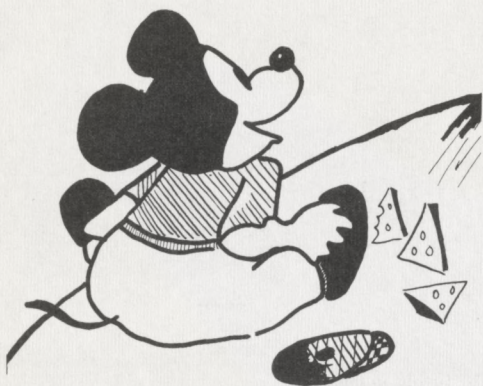
Miss Walsh says, "The girls are 'tops', and a game is not measured by defeat or victory but how it is played."

FRA ANGELICO ART CLUB

It is becoming a delight to walk through the school halls since the Art Club was re-established. Cheerful posters greet you at all the entrances of the school. These colorful posters are as informative as they are decorative. You will agree that the Christmas decorations were especially attractive.

Meetings are held on Thursday afternoon under the supervision of Sister Mary Emmanuel O. P. Some of the talented members are Regina Volz, Carol Ann Lombardi, Josephine Jonas, Mary Ellen Prenderville, Theresa McGrath, Georgette Rinaldi, Dianne Moore and Catherine Krieg.

TIDBITS



Congratulations to our editor, Anne Hill, who was the highest on the Principal's List with an average of 96.7.

The school uniform has undergone some changes, namely, new green tams which will replace the present caps. White dacron blouses are already taking the place of the yellow cotton ones.

The staff wishes to express its appreciation to Marie Grillo who always gives willing assistance in typing copy for **The Victor**.

Tick tock; tick tock;
That's the sound of a new clock—
No more guessing when it's three,
Thanks to Father Godfrey!

Each classroom has been supplied with an electric clock. Clock watchers beware!

Sister Joseph Emmanuel, a Maryknoll Sister, and Sister Miriam Lucille, a Sister of Saint Joseph were former faculty members here at Saint Michael's. Sister Joseph Emmanuel is at Maryknoll and Sister Miriam Lucille is stationed at Saint Angela Hall. Three of our graduates who became Dominican Sisters are now teaching in grammar school. Former students are at Maryknoll, Amityville, Brentwood and Blue Point preparing for life as religious. May God continue to bless us with vocations.

Kathleen Nestle, E72-303, won the contest sponsored by **The Victor** several weeks ago. Her guesses were the closest to the correct amount of food consumed in two weeks by the students at lunch time.

Four thousand dollars worth of new electric typewriters have been purchased. They will, we hope, increase the speed and efficiency of our future secretaries.

Indecent movies are finding their way into the homes of millions via television. We urge all the students of Saint Michael's to protest against such films by writing to the networks that show these movies. Many letters of complaint will bring results. We hope that our girls will help The Legion of Decency in its fight against immoral films.

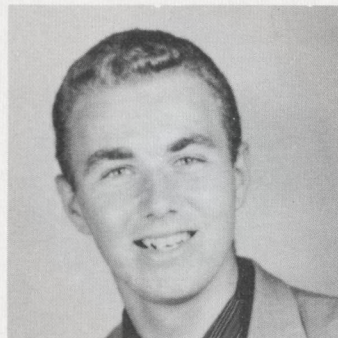
INQUIRING REPORTER

Since 1960 is a Leap Year, girls are permitted many privileges they did not enjoy in other years. For instance, a young lady may overlook convention and approach a boy for a date. Would you have the nerve to do so? If so, would you be afraid he might refuse you? Let's see what three of the Seniors from St. Francis Preparatory have to say about the following question: "What would you do if a girl asked you ou during Leap Year?"

Kenny is an all-round athlete, taking part in football, basketball, and baseball. He has no special girl, claiming he likes them all. His comment to the above question was, "I would really be flattered and in all probability date the girl."

Frank has been an active member of the Young Christian Students and was recently chosen president for the New York Federation of Schools. He is also a member of the Dance Committee and Cafeteria Squad. When asked his opinion on the question he replied, "If she looked like Miss America I'd consider it. Otherwise I'll do the asking."

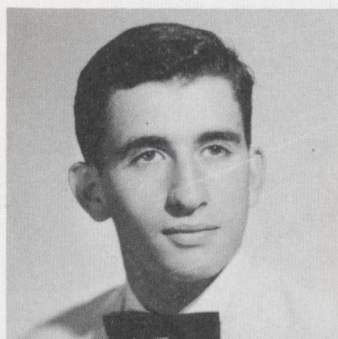
Vinny is presently a member of the Cheering Squad, the Young Christian Students, and Dance Committee. He has this to say if ever approached on this delicate topic: "Sometimes it's hard for a fellow to ask a girl for a date, and I'm sure the same would hold true for a girl. In that case, it would be against my principles to say no."



Kenny



Frank



Vinny

The Victor

SAINT MICHAEL'S COMMERCIAL HIGH SCHOOL
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MEET MY GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER

By Patricia Cotter, E61-306

Many people are privileged to be a small part of a heritage acquired for them by a relative. Such is the honor which has been given my family. Ever since I was a little girl I can remember my father telling me about a great poet named Alfred Lord Tennyson. Too young to understand and appreciate fully, I would sit and listen attentively as he talked about him. I remember my aunt, who is Tennyson's granddaughter, reading aloud from his poems. She tried to impress me with the fact that I was the poet's great-great granddaughter. I was several years later that I really became aware of the wonder of this fact, especially when I began to study his poems in school.

In our family we set Alfred Tennyson as an example of what can be achieved with little education. Born on August 6, 1809 in Somersly, Lincolnshire, to the Rev. and Mrs. Ginge Clayton Tennyson, Alfred was the fourth of twelve children. With twelve mouths to feed there was little money left to supply the children with a formal education. Therefore, Alfred had to be satisfied with five years spent in the nearby grammar school. His father had high hopes for him, namely, a career as a minister for the clergy. Strange as it may seem, Alfred was a very shy child, and kept much to himself. All of his little secrets, things he liked to do and did, he recorded. When he was twelve years old he wrote a story in blank verse about himself. His father sent him to Trinity College to complete his studies for the ministry, instead, it was here that Alfred gained recognition as a young rising poet for his poem "Timbuctoo".

As a man, my aunt recalls, Alfred found making friends easy and treasured them among his most loved possessions. For nine years he went into retirement because of the death of his closest friend and war buddy, Arthur Hallam. To this departed friend he dedicated the poem "In Memoriam", which is listed among his best works. The death of this friend helped Alfred to reach maturity, and to write some of his masterpieces.

Tennyson was a man who loved peace and quiet; such was the life he lived with his parents. Death came quietly to him on October 6, 1892. His body rests in Westminster Abbey, next to Chaucer and Robert Browning. To him was given recognition of being the greatest poet of the Victorian Age, also, one of the world's rarest bards.

It is with great admiration and pride that my family treasures the honor Alfred Lord Tennyson has bestowed upon us by the nobility of his life and works.

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MEMO:

Schedule of Events

FEBRUARY

- February 1—Monday: Opening of First Half, Second Term
- February 2—Tuesday: Feast of the Purification of Our Lady (Candlemas Day.)
- February 3—Wednesday: Feast of Saint Blaise (Blessing of Throats)
- February 5—Friday: First Friday (C.Y.A. conducts Holy Hour after school.)
- February 6—Saturday: First Saturday of Our Lady. Cooperative High School Entrance Test.
- February 11—Thursday: Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.
- February 12—Friday: Lincoln's Birthday—holiday.
- February 13—Saturday: Annual Dance of the Fathers' Club and Mothers' Auxiliary.
- February 14—Sunday: Saint Valentine's Day
- February 22—Monday: Washington's Birthday—holiday

HIGH NOON OR A BEDTIME STORY FOR A MODERN TV FAN

The *Sun Danced* lazily over *Tombstone Territory* the morning that the *Wagon Train* passed through. The stillness was broken by *Perry Mason*, a mysterious young man, who ran through the street waving *Five Fingers* in the air. It seems that the *Riverboat* had just docked and three *Kookie* dudes from *77 Sunset Strip* got off. They were going to catch the *Welles Fargo* stage to *Wichita Town* where they were to meet *Sheriff Earp*. The good sheriff was going to help *Trackdown* the *Rebel* who was last seen in *Cheyenne*. As you can see news travels quickly in a small town.

Gunsmoke suddenly filled the air of the peace-loving village, there hadn't been a robbery or murder since daybreak, because *Paladin* decided to have it out with the *Maverick* boys. The *Lawman* and the *Deputy* looked on helplessly because the *Hawaiian Eye* was staring at them from behind a *Black Saddle*.

In another part of town *Bronco Lane* and the *Rifleman* were walking the *Bourbon Street Beat*. They met the four *Cartwrights* who were escorting young *Sugarfoot* with a very *Raw Hide* out of town.

And so we come to the end of our tale of a day in a typical Western town.

Goodnite fans and remember *Bat Masterson* is watching you.

Lynne L. De Sena

SHOW ME WHAT YOU READ AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU ARE

February is Catholic Press Month, a month set aside to foster the reading of good literature. It is time to examine your reading habits carefully and clean up your bookshelf. Remember that sordid writing excites the reader with the desire to experience what he reads. How many persons born and reared in a Catholic environment have fallen prey to the press that seeks to corrupt mind, body and soul?

If you choose, you can disregard your set of Christian moral principles. Do not forget that God holds the original copy and He is waiting to go over it with you, line by line, on the day of judgment.

IMPROVE YOUR READING EXPERIENCE

To arouse the interest of history students, new books have been added to our shelves in the library.

Gunpowder Girl by Josephine Savage describes Susannah Ellis' efforts to help the American cause during the Revolutionary War.

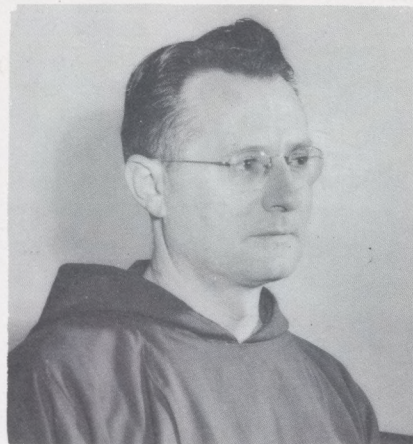
Chaplain in Gray written by H. J. Heagney is the life of Abram Ryan, the poet priest of the Confederacy. He left his teaching post in Brooklyn to join the Army of the South during the Civil War.

The background of his famous poems, "The Conquered Banner" and "The Sword of Lee" are interestingly described.

The next book should prove attractive to third term students, "Medieval Days and Ways" by Gertrude Hartman. Pictures, text and diagrams present a vivid portrayal of this period of history and the rich heritage it has left us.

Youth Abroad by Joachim Joesten is a discussion of post-war youth in Europe. It explains the differences between countries by citing comparisons.

These are but a few of the worthwhile books to be found in Saint Michael's Library. Come in and Look around. You will always find a book to suit your needs.



My dear Students:

It is difficult to define school spirit but it is not difficult to determine its presence or absence in a student. School spirit means more than obedience to authority; it means more than diligent application in class and proper conduct outside of the class. Just as when you love someone, you manifest to them some special respect and consideration, you perform many little acts of thoughtfulness and even tenderness, so too if you are fond of your school you uphold its honor, you cherish its traditions, you sacrifice your time and energy to promote its welfare.

The uniform you wear manifests to all that you are a Saint Michael's girl. Perhaps you do not like its color or cut but you must like what it stands for and you must let the world know that you are proud to wear it.

There are many activities connected with our school which are optional and therefore do not demand your participation. It is activities such as these which require a fine talent and a good heart. Your enthusiasm for these activities indicate the presence of a good school spirit. The Glee Club, Band, Forensic League, School Paper, Year Book, Basketball Team, Cheerleaders, Y. C. S., Sodality and other extracurricular activities are wonderful opportunities to proclaim your interest in and love for your school.

Even the student, who, for some legitimate reason cannot take part in any of these activities, can still show her spirit by supporting the endeavors of her school mates by her encouragement and by her presence at school sponsored activities.

Saint Michael's school is doing a great service to you---a service which you will more fully appreciate only after the graduation doors have closed upon you. While you are still with us, please try to add to the good name of Saint Michael's by being a true and loyal supporter of its activities and ideals.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Godfrey, O.F.M. Cap.